

# Online Text to Speech for Local Government

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## Did you know?

- 285 million people worldwide are visually impaired.
- 15 to 20% of the world's population has a language-based learning disability.
- 793 million adults worldwide are illiterate.
- In the US alone, over 18 million seniors — six million more than five years ago — are using the web.

### The Increasing Need for Accessible Content

Today, 20% of the world's population suffers from some form of reading disability (literacy difficulties, dyslexia, mild visual impairments, non-native language, etc.). An even greater number of people simply don't have enough time to read. In the age of smartphones and mobile Internet, these problems can be increased by the use of small screens.

By giving your citizens the opportunity to listen to your content or, if they wish, to download it and listen to it at a later time, you maximize your chances of reaching and involving the widest target audience possible.

### Speech-Enabling for Better Accessibility

**ReadSpeaker®** online text-to-speech solutions let your message be heard by more people, from anywhere and with any device.

Available in 35 languages and 70 voices, they are used by many central and local governments around the world.

### Involve More of Your Citizens

With **ReadSpeaker** online text to speech, you can:

- increase the accessibility of your online content for people who have visual impairments, are dyslexic, or need more accessibility.
- diminish the digital divide and increase e-inclusion by ensuring that government information is available in both written and audio format.
- add audio to your digital libraries and make all your online documents more accessible.
- provide vocal assistance for helping your citizens fill out online forms.
- provide for multitaskers and those using mobile devices.
- reach people whose native language is not the language of your website.

## Case Studies

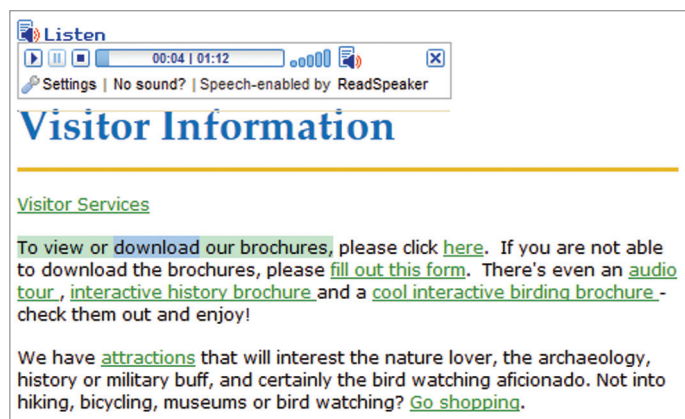
### City of Sierra Vista, USA

The City of Sierra Vista added **ReadSpeaker** to its website to meet the needs of people with different abilities.

*“The Commission on Disability Issues appreciates that the City initiated this feature on their website. We’ve tested the site and approved of the ease and the convenience of the new program. We look forward to assisting the City to explore technologies that assist individuals with different types of disabilities to live a more independent lifestyle.”*

— Derrick Coates

Chair for the Commission on Disability Issues



### Westland Municipality, The Netherlands

In the Netherlands, 1.5 million people have impaired vision, some form of dyslexia, or literacy problems. There are also many residents whose native language is not Dutch. Westland added **ReadSpeaker** to its website to make it accessible to all inhabitants and as easy to use as possible.

## Local Government Sites Around the World Use ReadSpeaker Solutions

- Regions and cities in France, such as Région Ile de France, Conseil Général des Yvelines, Lille, Sceaux, Annecy, and Eprenay
- Major German regions like Saarland and Bavaria
- Kagawa and Shizuoka Prefectures in Japan
- Major cities around the world, such as Tokyo, Bilbao, Stockholm, Dortmund, Helsinki
- Several municipalities in Sweden, including Ånge, Hylte, Växjö, Strängnäs, Järfälla, Tidaholms, Sjöbo, Vasteras, and Östersunds
- Dutch municipalities, such as Waterland, Aalsmeer, Uithoorn, Brummen, Skarsterlân, Hoogezand-Sappemeer, and West Maas & Waal
- Several councils in the United Kingdom, including South Lanarkshire, Bracknell Forest, and Warrington

## About ReadSpeaker

**ReadSpeaker®** is the worldwide leader in online text to speech. In 1999, **ReadSpeaker** pioneered the first-ever speech-enabling application for websites. Today, the company provides a portfolio of web-based text-to-speech solutions for websites, mobile sites, mobile apps, RSS feeds, online documents and forms, and online campaigns. More than 5000 corporate, media, government, and nonprofit customers around the world use **ReadSpeaker** online text-to-speech solutions.